

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a base for supporting the boot, said base ~~plate~~ including a surface extending along a plane;

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

at least one linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange, said linkage including a first band extending from one fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange, said linkage further including a tightening device attached to said second flange, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of said linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

an abutment being fixed to said first band toward said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

at least one linkage of said at least one linkage is movable relative to said first and second lateral flanges to a position extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base.

Claim 2. (*Previously Amended*) A binding according to claim 1, further comprising a second fastener, wherein said linkage includes a second band, said second fastener attaching said second band to said second lateral flange, said tightening device being fixed to said second band.

Claim 3. (*Canceled*)

Claim 4. (*Previously Amended*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said flanges are attached to said base.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 1, wherein said tightening device has a passage for guiding said first band, said abutment being wider than said passage.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said tightening device has a passage for guiding said first band, said abutment being wider than said passage.

Claim 7. (*Canceled*)

Claim 8. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 4, wherein said tightening device has a passage for guiding said first band, said abutment being wider than said passage.

Claim 9. (*Previously Amended*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first and second fasteners of each linkage are journals.

Claim 10. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein one guide guides said abutment along said second band.

Claim 11. (*Canceled*)

Claim 12. (*Canceled*)

Claim 13. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 9, wherein one guide guides said abutment along said second band.

Claim 14. (*Canceled*)

Claim 15. (*Previously Amended*) A binding according to claim 1, further comprising a rear arch for supporting a rear of the boot, said rear arch connecting said first and second lateral flanges, wherein a length of each of said at least one linkage is constructed and arranged so that, when said each of said at least one linkage is forwardly positioned, each of said at least one linkage extends around a front of the boot when the boot is supported on said base plate and in contact with said rear arch.

Claim 16. (*Previously Amended*) A binding according to claim 15, wherein said at least one linkage includes a front linkage having a length within a range of about 25 to 50 centimeters.

Claim 17. (*Previously Amended*) A binding according to claim 15, wherein said at least one linkage includes a rear linkage having a length within a range of about 45 to 85 centimeters.

Claim 18. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first and second fasteners constitute first and second journal connections, and wherein said one linkage of said at least one linkage is pivotal about said first and second journal connections to said position extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base.

Claim 19. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first fastener extends from said first band to said first flange and said second fastener extends from said second band to said second flange.

Cl Claim 20. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said free end of said first band having a longitudinally tapered shape, and wherein said abutment comprises a pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 21. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 20, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot open at said free end, said longitudinal slot extending between said pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 22. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 20, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment.

Claim 23. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first band includes an inner surface facing said base and an outer surface facing away from said base, and wherein said abutment extends away from said outer surface of said first band.

Claim 24. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 23, wherein said abutment is substantially in a form of a wedge, said wedge having a surface substantially perpendicular to said outer surface of said first band and facing longitudinally toward said tightening device.

Claim 25. (*Previously Added*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange;

at least one linkage extending from said first flange to said second flange, said one linkage comprising:

a first band extending from a fastening end to a free end, said fastening end of said first band being directly attached to said first flange by means of a first fastener, said free end of said first band having a longitudinally tapered shape;

a second band having a fastening end directly attached to said second flange by means of a second fastener;

a tightening device affixed to said second band and facilitating an adjustment of a length of said one linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band against movement relative to said second band;

an abutment on said first band for preventing separation of said first band from said tightening device, said tightening device being positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment;

said abutment comprising a pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 26. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 25, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot open at said free end, said longitudinal slot extending between said pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 27. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 25, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment.

Claim 28. (*Previously Added*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange;

at least one linkage extending from said first flange to said second flange, said one linkage comprising:

a first band extending from a fastening end to a free end, said fastening end of said first band being directly attached to said first flange by means of a first fastener;

a second band having a fastening end directly attached to said second flange by means of a second fastener;

a tightening device affixed to said second band and facilitating an adjustment of a length of said one linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band against movement relative to said second band;

an abutment on said first band for preventing separation of said first band from said tightening device, said tightening device being positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment;

said first band including an inner surface adapted to face the boot and an outer surface adapted to face away from the boot, said abutment extending away from said outer surface of said first band.

*C* Claim 29. (*Previously Added*) A binding according to claim 28, wherein said abutment is substantially in a form of a wedge, said wedge having a surface substantially perpendicular to said outer surface of said first band and facing longitudinally toward said tightening device.

Claim 30. (*New*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein:

    said base has a front end and a rear end;

    said linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange is a front linkage;

*Cn*    said at least one linkage further comprises a rear linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange, said rear linkage further including a first band having an abutment and a second band having a tightening device, whereby said abutment of said rear linkage prevents separation of said first band of said rear linkage and said tightening device of said rear linkage; and

    each of said front and rear linkages are movable relative to said first and second flanges from a forward boot-removed position and a rearward boot-inserted position, whereby in said forward boot-removed position both of said front and rear linkages have lengths, while said first and second bands of said front and rear linkages are not separated, sufficient to extend forwardly beyond said front end of said base.

Claim 31. (*New*) A binding according to claim 30, wherein said front linkage has a length within a range of about 25 to 50 centimeters and said rear linkage has a length within a range of about 45 to 85 centimeters.

Claim 32. (New) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a base for supporting the boot, said base including a surface extending along a plane;

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

*(C2)* at least one linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange, said linkage comprising:

a first band extending from a fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange;

a second band extending from a fastening end to a free end, a second fastener attaching said fastening end of said second band to said second flange;

a tightening device attached to said band, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of said linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

said first band of said linkage extending longitudinally straight from said first fastener to said tightening device and said second band of said linkage extending longitudinally straight from said second fastener to said tightening device;

an abutment fixed to said first band proximate said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

said linkage being movable relative to said first and second lateral flanges to a position extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base.